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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES:

VETERANS AFFAIRS &
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
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LIQUOR CONTROL
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE

CAUCUSES:

SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Stephen Barrar 

SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation—Election Code Violation/Statute of Limitations

DATE: March 18, 2011

Pennsylvanians are entitled to exercise their right to vote without fear of intimidation. Fair and free elections, in which the votes of all legitimate voters are counted, are the cornerstone of our democracy.

The Commonwealth's Attorney General, as well as 67 district attorneys have concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute Election Code violations. As we all know, the Attorney General and our district attorneys are charged with investigating a very broad spectrum of alleged criminal activity, in addition to election-related allegations. Given the demands on the Attorney General and district attorneys and the vital importance of enforcing our election laws, I believe that the General Assembly should enact legislation to extend the statute of limitations for commencing prosecution of Election Code violations from the current 2-year time frame to 4 years.

In the near future, I intend to introduce such a bill. I believe that the enactment of this legislation will empower the Attorney General and the district attorneys to take on the type of important voter intimidation cases and voter fraud cases that they may not currently be able to pursue at this time. More importantly, I believe that enactment of this legislation will give the voters of Pennsylvania more confidence that elections will be fair and free of intimidation.

If you wish to join me in sponsoring this legislation, please contact Gina Buffington in my office at 783-3038 or email gbuffing@pahousegop.com. I would appreciate your support and co-sponsorship.

SEB/gb